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### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification of the present application as set forth below. Changes to the specification are shown by presenting paragraphs with strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter).

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Please replace the Abstract beginning at page 28, line 4 with the following rewritten Abstract (144 words):

- ~~In at least one embodiment, the apparatus of the present invention is a~~ An  
exemplary heat exchanger which includes a core having a thermally variable  
10 size and a support structure. To minimize, or eliminate, differential thermal  
expansion, the support structure is connected to the core and thermally deforms  
to accommodate variations in the size of the core. The support structure  
employs a thermally deformable member which can be a tie rod with a planar  
center section. In other embodiments, the support structure may includes a  
15 first strongback, a second strongback, and at least one variable thickness tie  
rod mounted between the strongbacks. The variable thickness tie rod can be a  
broadened end tie rod having an end or ends which are thicker (wider) than a  
center section. The present invention also includes Various exemplary methods  
of fabrication are disclosed. One exemplary method embodiment includes the  
20 steps of obtaining a tie rod having a substantially uniform thickness and forging  
the tie rod to define a planar center section. Another embodiment includes  
obtaining a tie rod of uniform thickness, forging a first end of the tie rod to

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~~broaden the thickness of the first end, and applying threads to the first end of  
the tie rod. - -~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 34 with the  
5 following rewritten paragraph:

- - As shown in Fig. 10, in another embodiment of the present invention, a tie rod 150c includes both a planar center section 150c and enlarged ends 152c. The tie rod 150c incorporates the functioning and configuration of the planar section 151a of the tie rod 150a, and the enlarged ends 152b of the tie rod  
10 ~~450e~~150b, as set forth in detail above. That is, the tie rod 150c includes the planar section 151c so that the tie rod 150c can thermally respond at rate which is near to, or equal to, that of the core 110 (not shown), and has the enlarged ends 152c so that the tie rod 150c can carry increased loads. The tie rod 150c further includes threads 153c which are shaped to receive the threads of a  
15 fastener (not shown) as well as a tapered section 156c and round sections 157c. - -